

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1105

I am a father of a 5 1/2 year old boy with autism writing to voice my opposition to SB 1105. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE THESE DEVASTATING CHANGES! This proposed legislation would be detrimental to children with autism. This year, the State Department of Education has proposed changes to this legislation that would enable anyone one who is certified in any other area, but who does not have any ABA training whatsoever, to provide these critical services. ABA is a specially trained field and not just anyone can deliver this to a child with autism. It needs to be done the correct way.

There are already not enough SLP's, special education teachers and psychologists to meet CT's current educational needs so adding additional responsibilities to these professions will not meaningfully increase the number of providers. Without proper service delivery students with autism not only will not learn but can regress causing the cost of later treatment and lifelong care to increase. Supervision and direction by a designated administrator will add to the cost of providing services while decreasing the ability of qualified personnel to do their jobs. Paraprofessionals are NOT trained to give this high level of instruction!

Please reconsider the effects this will have on families of children with autism. We already struggle enough with our day to day issues and do not need this to become something else that will further cause regression with our kids.

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